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Agenda item 96

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "International Conference on Population and Development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 23rd to 26th and 45th meetings, on 4, 5 and 9 November and 6 December 1993. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.23-26 and 45). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Conference (A/48/430 and Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session (A/48/492);

(c) Letter dated 28 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the press communiqué issued by the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic

Cooperation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at its meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 May 1993 (A/48/182);

(d) Letter dated 9 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Document of the meeting of the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali from 10 to 13 May 1993 (A/48/338);

(e) Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 adopted at the seventeenth annual meeting (A/48/485);

(f) Note verbale dated 11 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Port Vila Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, agreed upon at Port Vila on 10 September 1993 (A/C.2/48/3);

(g) Letter dated 15 October 1993 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 30 September 1993 (A/C.2/48/4);

(h) Letter dated 3 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Tunis Plan of Action on Population and Development in the Arab Maghreb, adopted by the Maghreb Conference on Population and Development, held at Tunis from 7 to 10 July 1993 (A/C.2/48/7).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 4 November, an introductory statement was made by the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development (see A/C.2/48/SR.23).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.11 and Rev.1

5. At the 26th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Population and Development" (A/C.2/48/L.11), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/176 of 22 December 1992 on the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, 1992/37 of 30 July 1992 and 1993/4 of 12 February 1993,

"Recognizing the importance of population issues in the context of sustained economic growth and sustainable development and the need to treat population issues in their proper developmental perspective,

"Noting the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session, 1/

"Emphasizing the importance of a thorough preparatory process for the subsequent success of the Conference,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Conference 2/ and the accompanying annotated outline of the draft final document of the Conference; 3/

"2. Endorses fully Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/76 of 30 July 1993 on the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development;

"3. Decides that the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development shall become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly;

"4. Expresses its appreciation to Member States and organizations for the extrabudgetary contributions made so far to the three trust funds that have been established to support preparatory activities, including national activities, as well as to support the participation in the Conference and its preparatory process of developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, and calls upon all States and organizations in a position to do so to support those trust funds further;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, in preparing the draft final document of the Conference, to be guided by the views expressed by delegations and groups of delegations on the annotated outline, including those expressed at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, in recognition of the importance to the preparations for the Conference of the regional and subregional population conferences, to submit to the

1/ E/1993/69.

2/ A/48/430.

3/ A/48/430/Add.1.

Preparatory Committee at its third session a report synthesizing the results of those conferences;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to convene, within existing conference-servicing provisions, informal consultations at United Nations Headquarters in the period prior to the third session of the Preparatory Committee, in preparation for negotiations on the draft final document of the Conference;

"8. Emphasizes the particular importance of immediate action in widely publicizing the objectives of the Conference and the issues to be discussed at it;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to ensure implementation of the present resolution;

"10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled 'Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development'."

6. At the 45th meeting, on 6 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution, and drew the Committee's attention to a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.11/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.11 as well as Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.11/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 10).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Egypt (see A/C.2/48/SR.45).

B. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development

9. At its 45th meeting, on 6 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development at its second session (A/48/492) (see para. 11).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution.

International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/176 of 22 December 1992 on the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, 1992/37 of 30 July 1992 and 1993/4 of 12 February 1993,

Recognizing the importance of population issues in the context of sustained economic growth and sustainable development and the need to treat population issues in their proper developmental perspective,

Noting the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session, 4/

Emphasizing the importance of a thorough intergovernmental preparatory process for the subsequent success of the Conference,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development 5/ and the accompanying annotated outline of the draft final document of the Conference; 6/

2. Endorses fully Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/76 of 30 July 1993 on the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development;

3. Decides that the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development shall become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, without prejudice to current arrangements for participation in the Conference and its preparatory process;

4. Expresses its appreciation to States and organizations for the extrabudgetary contributions made so far to the three trust funds that have been established to support preparatory activities, including national activities, as well as to support the participation in the Conference and its preparatory process of developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, and calls upon all States and organizations in a position to do so to support those trust funds further;

4/ E/1993/69.

5/ A/48/430.

6/ A/48/430/Add.1.

5. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, in preparing the draft final document of the Conference, to be guided by the views expressed by delegations and groups of delegations on the annotated outline, including those expressed at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, in recognition of the importance to the preparations for the Conference of the regional and subregional population conferences, to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its third session a report synthesizing the results of those conferences;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to convene, within existing resources, informal consultations at United Nations Headquarters in the period prior to the third session of the Preparatory Committee, to exchange views in preparation for negotiations on the draft final document of the Conference;

8. Reaffirms the importance of the participation in and contribution to the preparatory process and the Conference itself of non-governmental organizations in accordance with the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/4;

9. Emphasizes the particular importance of immediate action in widely publicizing the objectives of the Conference and the issues to be discussed at it;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to ensure implementation of the present resolution;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development".

* * *

11. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International
Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development at its second session. 7/
